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For Immediate Release
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**Treffinger Unveils Economic Development Initiatives
While Citing Progressive, Cooperative
Agenda For Growth and Job Creation**

Newark, NJ (April 4)---- Essex County Executive James Treffinger, citing the need for "growth, development and jobs creation," today at a downtown press conference with Newark Mayor Sharpe James announced economic development initiatives in the form of construction plans in the city for both a combination minor league baseball/soccer stadium and a new county jail.

"Cooperation between the County of Essex and the City of Newark on the vital issues of public recreation and public safety is the opening chapter of what will, no doubt, be an economic success story for our region," Treffinger said.

"Stabilizing taxes, and reducing unnecessary spending, which I have addressed diligently during my first year in office, and will continue to champion, remain vital, but, while vital, are simply not enough to alone stimulate the ailing Essex economy," he said.

"Fiscal conservatism and tax relief must also be accompanied by a progressive, forward looking and, at times, aggressive commitment to economic revitalization," he said in reference to the proposed new construction projects in the City of Newark.

"We cannot afford to abandon our urban centers. The return to prosperity for all of Essex cannot happen without a revitalization of our cities. Moreover, we have an obligation to promote business, jobs, public safety, and recreational opportunities for youth where needed the most," Treffinger said.

"Today we are committing to building both a jail and a recreation stadium. Rising crime sadly requires us to expand our jail capacity but, at the same time, that fact should obligate us to create new wholesome opportunities for our youth," he said.

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Treffinger and James outlined plans for the construction of a multi-purpose sports and recreational complex at Riverbank Park, a nine-acre county owned site between Raymond Boulevard and Market Street in the city's East Ward.

Treffinger said plans include facilities for a 6,000 seat baseball stadium, a 6,000 seat soccer stadium with concert capability designed for use by neighborhood and school recreational groups.

The Sports facility, which would be publicly owned, will look for its financing from the County of Essex, the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority with managerial and operational responsibilities handled by the Essex County Improvement Authority which has statutory authority to issue bonds for redevelopment projects.

"I am pleased to announce the County of Essex and the City of Newark will work cooperatively on all issues involved in constructing the facility and developing plans with the neighboring community for parking and other game or event day requirements " said the County Executive.

"At the same time, we will share, on an equal basis, any net revenues derived from the Sports facility operations," Treffinger said, citing, among others, sales of luxury boxes, tickets, concessions and other retail sales used to generate private sector support.

Agreement on New County Correctional Facility

Treffinger said the construction of a new jail facility in Newark also represents a "financial home run" for both county and city officials noting consolidated plans will solve ten year's worth of legal wrangling with federal courts over conditions in both county and city facilities and offers positive public safety upgrades.

"All prior county administrations have attempted to resolve the jail crisis in Essex County without results and I am pleased to announce today that through careful and protracted negotiations we have reached an agreement for a proposed new Correctional Facility within the city borders," Treffinger said.

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"In return," he said, "the county will assume the take over of the central processing of city inmates which will allow Newark to shut down rather than spend money to repair its 100-year old dilapidated lockup while and, at the same time, avoid onerous federal fines."

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For nearly a decade the county has been fined by the federal courts for overcrowding in its Newark jail and its North Caldwell jail annex. "The benefits of this new facility include the avoiding of \$297 million in court fines, and a major savings in the consolidation and costs for the transportation of prisoners," Treffinger said.

Treffinger said estimates for the new facility will cut per diem cost for prisoners from \$87/per day to approximately \$56/per day and reduce operating costs by more than \$8 million annually.

Plans call for a two-year construction project with the creation of thousands of jobs with an estimated starting date of April 1997. Project requirements call for 35-45 acre site with facility design capabilities for 2400-2800 beds.

Last year alone the county had to agree to a \$2.3 million contract to provide more medical staff at the two county jail facilities and Treffinger said the proposed new facility will allow for the most cost-efficient use of tax dollars.

Treffinger said he has pledged the good faith of the county's efforts towards the acquisition costs and possible environmental remediation requirements for any proposed site so long as it does not unduly jeopardize the county's compliance with the timing requirements of the Federal Court or result in unforeseen and unreasonable costs.

Treffinger concluded his remarks saying, "Not only will the new jail construction plan save taxpayer dollars and create jobs but a modern, safer, more secure facility will guarantee that more dangerous criminals are off the streets and behind bars and that our corrections officers will be better protected in doing their dangerous jobs protecting us."